SUBJECT No. 77.

Watchmen on provincial roads.

Mr. M. Subba Rao, Heggaddevankote taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Watchmen or mile coolies kept at every 5th mile on provincial roads are not doing their work properly. It is prayed that the services of these men be dispensed with and the savings utilized for any other useful purpose.

Reply of Government.—Will be enquired into.

SUBJECT No. 78.

Increase of pay to police constables.

(*a*) Mr. Paramesvaraiya, Mandya taluk.

(*b*) Mr. Guru Rao, Tarikere taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) The price of food grains has gone very high. The police constables work day and night and their pay is insufficient and therefore it may be increased.

(*b*) The minimum pay of police constables may be raised to Rs. 10 per mensem.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 79.

Criminal gangs.

Mr. Guru Rao, Tarikere taluk.

Summary of discussion.—People under surveillance, under "Gang" rules, in the State are increasing. Steps may be adopted to make them take to agricultural occupations. Lands are now being given, but they are unsuitable. A portion of the Amrut Mahal Kavals may be set apart for the purpose.

Mr. Narasimhiengar of the Sagar taluk stated that this system would reduce crimes to a great extent.

Reply of Government.—This is being done.

Respectable non-official gentlemen may be selected by the Deputy Commissioners concerned.

Mr. Santanam Iyengar added that under-trial prisoners often complained of ill-treatment before Magistrates, but no notice was usually taken except adding a foot-note if injuries were noticed, and that if there was a visitors' book, the fact that such injuries had been noticed would be evidence.

Reply of Government.—We shall try.

SUBJECT No. 74.

Dafadars to be empowered to investigate cases of criminal complaint.

Messrs. Hutchviregowda, Gubbi taluk; Ramiah and Hanumiah Setti, Malvalli taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Formerly the police dafadars in charge of sub-stations were submitting first information reports in respect of cases reported in their jurisdiction and taking the initiative for investigation. This practice has been discontinued. Under the present procedure the station dafadar has to merely give information of the occurrence to the officer in charge of the range who submits the first information report. At times there will be a delay of at least two or three days in the issue of the first information report and in the appearance of the Range Officer at the scene of the occurrence, as he is in charge of three or four stations. The delay thus caused will give time to the accused to get up his own defence and thus the evidence for the prosecution will not be readily collected and there is every probability of the case